

ABSTRACT

The invention provides for compounds comprising nucleotide sequences 5'-P-N¹-N²-G-N³-C-I-3' and 3'-Q-N⁴-N⁵-N⁶-N⁷-N⁸-N⁹-Y-J-5' that are the generic sequences of a mIRES of an HCV genome, and variants thereof. The invention also provides assays that utilise the compounds of the invention, including assays for detection of HCV antiviral compounds.